duction and start underground mining in place of open cast mining so that high quality of coal becomes available in large quantity;

(b) if so, the details of the proposol; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to increase he availability of good quality of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps being taken to increase the availability of good quality coal inter-alia include:

(i) Augmenting the capacity of coal handling and screening facilities to improve consistency of quality of coal despatches.

(ii) Reorganisation and development of some of the existing mines producing better grades of coal.

(iii) Opening of new mines.

(iv) Beneficiation of coal for eliminating extraneous materials to improve the overall quality.

Expansion of operations of S.C.C.L.

2339. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the operations of Singareni Collieries Company Limited; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The coal production from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is expected to increase from 20.58 million tonnes (1991-92) to 33.00 million tonnes in 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The target of 33.00 million tonnes is proposed to be achieved by production from existing mines, on-going projects and new projects; the break-up of which is proposed as under:—

	Production (In million tonnes)
Existing mines	16.32
On-going projects	16.93
New Projects	4.75
TOTAL	33.00

The followng major rojects of Singareni Collieries Company Limited are proposed to be taken up for implementation during the Eighth Plan period:—

Project	Likely Capacity
(i) Medapalli Opencast	1.25 m'y
(ii) Padmavathikhani Underground	1.25 m y
(iii) Gauthamkhani Opencast	2.00 m y
(iv) Manuguru Opencast-IV	1.25 m'y
(v) Ramagudem Shaft Block-I	1.80 m'y
(vi) Manuguru Shaft Block-I	1.80 m'y

The achievement of coal production target of 33.00 million tonnes by SCCL would, however, depend on availability of resources of Rs. 1850 crores (including Rs. 850 crores proposed as Andhra Pradesh State Goverment's share of equity) at 1991-92 prices during the Eighth Plan period.